



Wycombe Wanderers skipper John Delaney receives a farewell gift of a coloured stone from England Amateur manager Charles Hughes.

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Wycombe's loss is Brentford's Gane!

ALAN GANE, Wycombe Wanderers midfield player, has accepted an offer to turn professional with Brentford and is expected to sign on with the Fourth Division club this week.

The move is something of a surprise to Wycombe followers as Gane was unable to hold down a regular place in the side last season. However, he has interested Brentford, relegated from Division 3 last year, for some time and played two London Charity Cup games for them. Another club who were anxious to sign Alan was Hereford, who watched him four times at Wycombe.

Gane will be giving up his teaching career but told me, "I've always wanted to turn professional and I hope to take up some part-time teaching in the future anyway."

Brentford boss Frank Blundstone first saw Alan when he was the Chelsea trainer. Gane was with Stamford Bridge club as a schoolboy. From there he had a short stay with Slough and Sutton United and was substitute for the latter at Wembley when they lost 2-1 to North Shields in the Amateur Cup final.

The blond midfield man came to Wycombe at the end of 71/73 season. He said he had enjoyed his stay at Loakes Park. "There is a very good atmosphere

between the players and I've been happy with the club."

Wycombe manager Brian Lee felt Alan would have to improve

his strength and speed to make a career in the professional game. But he added, "Alan has definitely got the footballing brain to succeed."

Gane scored six goals for the Blues last season and made 47 appearances. He was substitute 15 times.

He joins several other former Wycombe men with professional clubs including Viv Busby, Peter Suddaby, Paul Fushillo and John Delaney.

Another player to leave the club is reserve goalkeeper Peter Spittle. He came from Maidenhead United in mid-season and although making a strong impression, he was unable to oust John Maskell from the first team spot.

Peter is expected to join Slough Town, who have also lost many players. Tommy Lawrence, who came to the Rebels from Enfield with half a dozen players, has returned to his former club with many of the successful Slough team of last season, among them Keith Mead, Roger Day and Ian Wolstenholme.

S.E.



ALAN GANE
... going pro'.

Farewell to 'Big John'

WYCOMBE WANDERERS skipper and centre-half, John Delaney, who joins the professionals at Bournemouth next season, paid tribute to his old club at their annual dinner-dance on Friday at the Monkey Island Hotel, Bray (writes Stuart Earp).

Delaney, who had just received a farewell gift of a coloured stone from club members and the players, said: "I am sorry to be leaving because I don't think I have ever played for a better club or a better set of players. It's just like a family at Wycombe and I wish all the players and the committee the best of luck."

The gift was presented by England Amateur team manager, Mr. Charles Hughes, who devoted much of his entertaining speech to John Delaney's departure. "We are sorry to be losing John from the England team but he has opened up new avenues for himself. All those in the England party say good luck and will be following your progress with much interest."

"From all in the England team, we would like to thank you for all you have done for England."

Mr. Hughes went on to talk about the club. He felt that clubs couldn't function on one individual and that a club must be greater than any individual.

standards. Every manager knows that you can become victims of your own success. Wycombe Wanderers, by their own high standards, achieved only moderate success last season. This calls for the true spirit of a club.

"The spirit of a club is very special and is a major asset of Wycombe Wanderers. Long may the standard and spirit of this club continue."

Committed member Mr. Reg Williams congratulated Mr. Hughes on the success of the recent England tour and welcomed guests who included former Wanderer and now Blackpool centre-back Peter Suddaby. Mr. Williams praised the work done by the ladies at the club.

Final speaker of the evening was Peter Suddaby who described his short stay of one season with the Blues as "one of the most enjoyable I've spent in football."

"I learned a lot by playing with John Delaney and I can only say Wycombe's loss / is



Charles Hughes, the England amateur manager, who was one of the guest speakers at Wycombe